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ALMA-TADEMA

CARACALLA



"SIR LAWRENCE ALMA-TADEMA," by PERCY CROSS STANDING. New York: Cassell & Company.

Of the many artists' biographies that appear one after the other, the one on Alma-Tadema bears the stamp of the intimate, personal acquaintance and friendship existing between the author and his subject. It is apparent that Mr. Standing is thoroughly *en rapport*, and his quotations of the artist's sayings shed a clear light on Sir Lawrence's character. And yet, the style in which the book is written is somewhat tame and conventional and not particularly interesting, only occasionally developing a chatty tendency.

The most interesting chapter is the eighth, with the caption, "Some of his critics." Here the divergence, the outspokenness of praise or blame is refreshingly chronicled. A grateful light is shed on the artist's contributions to the stage in designing the settings of plays for Irving, Beer-bohm Tree and Benson, in which his archæological lore had full play.

There are forty illustrations in this book, in half-tone and a few in very indifferent color-print. The selection of these paintings has been chronological whereby some of the best work of the artist is crowded out. I take pleasure in giving three illustrations of his masterpieces in this number, which are not found in the book.